

MAKING TRACKS

BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 1997 ISSUE

VISITORS ENRICH THE MUSEUM IN MANY WAYS

Many visitors came to the Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum during the 1997 summer months. The Native American party sponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the 4th of July parade brought visitors, the children's garden, the quilt display at the Museum during the 4th of July weekend, and the children's photography contest were some of the activities that brought people to see the Butte Falls Museums. Among these many visitors, there were some "old timers" who willingly volunteered historical information about Bill Edmondson, Ernest W. Smith and other early families of Butte Falls.

Lowell Patton, from Lake Oswego, Oregon and his cousin, Dean Higenbotham from Grants Pass, Oregon, dropped by on Memorial Day, at closing time, to visit the Museum. The two cousins seemed to have had a great time reminiscing about the "old days" and, two and half hours later, I had learned some interesting history about who lived where in Butte Falls in the 1930's. During my conversation with them, a great idea came to me, and Lowell Patton took the time to draw a map of Butte Falls and marked where some of the early families lived in the early years. Now a historical map is in the process of being made that shows the location of these places and a legend will be written to explain the history of each marked place. When finished, this map and legend will be in brochure form and available at the Caboose and the Bill Edmondson Memorial

Museum. The following month, at our invitation, Dean Higenbotham joined us at our regular Big Butte Historical Society meeting. His informative talk about the past was recorded.

Another visitor was Bob Duane, from Cave Junction, Oregon. He was impressed with the Museum set up at the Smith House, and offered to donate a student's oak rolltop desk. The desk came to him by way of a friend from Presidio, CA, circa 1967. The desk itself is much older than 1967, its age would date back to the turn of the century. The Big Butte Historical Society appreciates the gift and it has a fitting place in the photo gallery.

Then, a local boy, who has lived in Butte Falls all his life, also came to one of our meetings at the Museum. Darwin Moore's information was recorded and he also donated an early carved lamp stand that belong to his Aunt Clara and carved by Bill Edmondson. Darwin had many old photographs that he offered to us for copies. He also, for viewing at the Museum, loaned a musical instrument, a dulcimer, that he himself has played, and belong to his grandfather. The dulcimer dates back to the early 1990's and was made by an "old Indian" in the state of Michigan.

Because of these visitors and others, we have gained more knowledge of Butte Falls' past and we realize that there is much more historical information out there to add to what we already have.



Can you guess who any of these children are? See page 3.

GOOD THINGS CAME OUT OF THE 50's . . .

On September 29, 1952, twenty-three men joined together to form the Butte Falls Lions Club. Little did those men know how many lives would be touched by their club and its future generations. Charter Members included John Schiveley, Roger Harris, Robert Tracy, Lloyd E. Tungate, W.A. Hartlerode, Glen Cathey, Donald Smith, John Henshaw, Claude Moore, Ward Sybouts, Arthur Jackson, W.O. Thomas, Leslie Horn, Robert L. Brown, Edwin J. Malloy, Glenne Albert, Walter Finey, Leroy Casey, Ralph Halbrook, F.E. Poole, Ernest W. Smith, Clyde Moore and Ray Price. The only known surviving member of the original group is Lloyd (Bud) Tungate who now resides in Medford.

One of the first major projects the club became involved in was the building of the community hall. A plaque which reads, "This building is dedicated to the memory of Lion William J. "Bill" Thomas, who, through his efforts and inspiration, made this building possible," remains on display at the hall.

Since the club was founded, it has been active in supporting the community. The club has been a regular contributor to the Butte Falls Scholarship Fund, has sponsored little league teams, provided glasses for local children, funded Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets for local families, and sponsored the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Over the years, the membership in this group has changed, going from an all male club to one that has female members, from a club with over thirty active members to one with only fourteen members, but the focus of the club is unchanged. The members are still there today as they were in 1952 to serve their community.

THE CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST

The Southern Oregon Historical Society is sponsoring their 8th annual Chili Cook-Off Contest, at the Harvest Fair & Wine Fest at the Jackson County Expo, on Saturday, October 4, 1997. There will be several teams presenting their "brand" of chili for judging. Public tasting is at 12:30, judging is at 1:00 and awards will be presented at 2:00 p.m. The Big Butte Historical Society is sending Cory Hamann and Johnnie Bell Conley as the "Novice Chili Chef De Oeuvres" team. If you can, join our team and give them support, for the chosen 1st place team will receive a minimum of \$250, which will be donated to their chosen bona fide charity. There will also be a 2nd prize of \$150, a 3rd prize of \$100 and a People's Choice Mystery Prize.

"Where Love Blossoms" THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Preparation for the second season of the garden at the Ernest W. Smith House began early in the year. Children from around town started seeds in 'mini green houses' made from plastic bags. Later in the spring, the kindergarten classes became involved, both in planting seeds and again in releasing preying mantis' into the garden. Local youngsters continued to enjoy the garden all through the summer. They could be found making bouquets from the garden's flowers, salad mixes from the variety of lettuces they grew or baking zucchini cookies or apple crisp. The children enjoyed sharing their harvest with many of the members of the community.

The children are now busy preparing for the community's annual "Christmas in the Country Bazaar" where they will be selling homemade jams to help with the costs of next year's garden and craft supplies.

DONATIONS

The historical society has received several new donations. Darwin Moore donated a unique floor lamp that was carved by Bill Edmondson. The lamp is a welcome addition to the Bill Edmondson Room.

Bob Duane of Cave Junction donated an oak rolltop desk and a Royal typewriter.

Lee Dressler of Loggers and Contractors donated several "Vintage" magazines.

Alan Buchta of the B.L.M. donated a video taped interview of Elga Abbott taken at the Falls.

Endowment Fund

The BBHS currently has \$1061.75 in its Endowment Fund. If you are interested in knowing more about the fund, or would like to make a donation, call Cory Hamann (President) at 865-3310.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Hamann (President)
Bev Carrillo

Dan Murphy
Joyce Hailicka, Chairman

THE BILL EDMONDSON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND CABOOSE HOURS

FRIDAY 1-4 P.M., SATURDAY 10 - 4 P.M. AND SUNDAY 1-4 P.M.

HOSTESS: KAETE THOMPSON 865-3333
GLORIA KARCHES 865-3332
NELLIE RAGSDALE 865-3332

CABOOSE MUSEUM TO GET A NEW LOOK

Many changes have taken place on the old Medco Caboose since it arrived in Butte Falls in October of 1990. Soon there will be a new addition.

In an effort to afford more protection for the caboose, construction will soon begin on a depot styled covering.

If you have not visited the Caboose Museum, we hope you will stop by soon for a visit.

These are the children pictured on page 1.

(Back row, left to right) Jack Stove, Garret Larsen, Bob Ellis, Lowell Patton, Thelma Jones, Bob Alberts, Edwin Philips, Nellie Jones, Evelyn Ellis, Fred Smallwood, Irma Brainard, Bob Kent, Bill Oden, Don Baker.

(Front row, left to right) Jean Watson, Delbert Geppant, Ruth Earls, Virginia Hilkey, Mary Kent, Sam Monchouse, Donna Smith, Thelma Tungate, Homer Craft, Iona Edmondson, Audrey Alberts, Betty Morehouse.

Butte Falls School First and Second Grades 1933

BBHS MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Historical Society meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum located at 432 Pine Street. You are encouraged to attend and to express your opinions regarding the function, projects, and fund-raisers of the organization.

Recent meetings have featured several interesting and informative guests. Two videos were shown by Vern Arnold, Chairman of the Board of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. The first was of the 1961 flood and included footage taken in Butte Falls. The second, a 1967 video of his father's retirement party which was held in the community hall, showed many old-time Butte Falls residents including Ernest W. Smith. Dean Higinbotham of Grants Pass used writings and photos to tell some of his family's history in Butte Falls. Local resident Darwin Moore shared stories using his family photo albums.

If you have stories or photos of historical interest that you would like to share with the Society, please contact Cory Hamann at 865-3310.

Support provided in part by the Jackson County Historical Fund

YOUNG INVENTIVE MINDS WANTED AT BUTTE FALLS MUSEUM

Among other things, E. W. Smith was a creative inventor. According to Anzel Conley, Ernest was able to turn an empty Carnation milk can into a working slide rule. In honor of Ernest W. Smith's ingenuity, the museum is offering a class for young inventors. The class will be offered on Friday, October 10, 1997 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Among the items you will learn how to make are: 1) a survival compass, 2) a handmade magnet, 3) a battery made from a potato and lemon, and 4) a hobo cook stove. The class is open to boys and girls ages 10-16 years old.

The instructor for the class is Mr. Dan Ceglia. Dan worked for the U.S. Forest Service in wildlife. However, his interest in inventions and survival tools began at an early age in Boy Scouts.

"Being a problem-solver opens the mind to be more creative," according to Mr. Ceglia. If you have a scientific mind or are just curious, we would like to have you join us for an enjoyable and interesting afternoon at the Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum in the Ernest W. Smith House. We will use the hobo stoves we make to cook hot dogs. Lunch and all supplies needed will be provided.

The class is being offered free of charge. Enrollment is limited to 12 people. To sign up, call Joyce Hailicka at 865-3205.

CHILDREN'S PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS TURNS PHOTOS INTO HISTORY

The theme of this summer's photography class was "A Day In Butte Falls Through the Eyes of a Child." A dozen children attended the class and were given point and shoot cameras. They were also given excellent photography hints by their instructor, Mr. Ed Arnold. Then each child was given a photo assignment. Each student was accompanied by an older group leader.

Students then went on a walking tour of their town. Each child had a different assignment - faces, pets, flowers, vehicles, and children at play. Mr. Arnold instructed the class to look carefully before taking a picture. Look at lighting. Don't get so far from your subject that you can see his shoelaces. And look for the unusual.

Then a scrapbook was compiled of the best photographs taken by each child.

First place winner - Heidi McLauchlan (14) faces

Second place winner - Ayn-Marie Hailicka (6) flowers

Third place winner - Michael McLauchlan (8) vehicles

Next time you visit the museum, ask to see the children's photography scrapbook. The photos are delightful. Among the photos you see, there might even be one of you!

- - - J. Hailicka

CURRENT MEMBERS

Elga & Emogene Abbott
Aloha Adams
John & Candy Adams
Ed & Donna Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Arnold
Warren & Charleen Brown
Alan & Nikki Buchta
Blanche Campbell
Carlos & Bev Carrillo
Warren & Sonya Dunning
Dick & Wendy Earl
Marc Ellis
Terry Ellis
Ethel Geleta
Arnold & Desi Grisham
Ron & Joyce Hailicka
Dan & Lois Hamann
Jason & Cheryl Hamann
Don & Cory Hamann
Don Henshaw
Stan Henshaw
Earl Human
John & Karen Huey
John & Elaine Isley
Russ & Gloria Karches
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kavasch
Virginia Kennedy

Wanona Konrady
Buff & Molly Lawrence
Bob & Judy Lozano
Bob & Joann Lyon
Ron & Diana Lyon
Dave Magedman
Linda Matthews
Dan & Betty McKenna
Kathy Mesloh
Stan and Jeany Moore
Dan Murphy
Lori Paxton
Ella Pingle
Gerry Powell
Warren & Ardena Powers
Arlen & Nellie Ragsdale
Lawrie & Phyllis Rutherford
Paul & Cher Rydberg
Arnold & Roberta Sortland
Bob & Kaete Thompson
Bill & Ann Tucker
Frank & Dottie Villa
Scott & Pamela Waddell
Darrel & Gale Wilttrout
Zella Wright
Brian York

PLEASE JOIN US!

MAIL TO:
Big Butte Historical Society
P. O. Box 379, Butte Falls, OR 97522

Now that you heard about BBHS, why not get to know us even better by becoming a volunteer! We'll look forward to having you join us!

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Here's how I can be of help:

_____ I'd like to _____

_____ Tell me more about being a board member.

_____ I could be a guest speaker. My topic: _____

_____ I'd like to help with fundraising efforts.

_____ I do not have time to volunteer at this time but I would like to make a monetary contribution to this organization.

BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 379
Butte Falls, OR 97522



Barbara Hegne
421 Stevens Road
Eagle Point Oregon 97524

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER